



Handheld + Cell Phone = Wireless

Feature By Denny Atkin

All it takes to get hooked on wireless Internet access from your handheld is to try it. The convenience of being able to pull out your handheld anywhere and check email, look up data on the web, or see which of your dot com stocks certificates to use to line the cat box is great. What holds back a lot of folks from joining the wireless party is the expense—a couple hundred bucks to buy a wireless modem (although they can often be had for less if you commit to a certain length of service—Omnisky is offering a “free modem” deal currently). Also, there's the \$40+ a month for wireless access charge. So what if I told you that you may already have a Palm-device-compatible wireless modem in your pocket right now?

Although the cell phone companies haven't made a big deal out of this feature, many current phones can be connected to a handheld and used as a wireless modem. All you need is a cable (sometimes an infrared connection will even work) and the software setup information. No extra hardware is necessary, and the only charge is your standard per-minute cell phone fee. And a Palm device is much easier to use than those horrible cell-phone text browsers.

What you need is a digital cell phone that follows either the GSM or CDMA standard. (Check with your carrier if you're not sure which standard it uses.) TDMA, the standard used by carriers such as Cellular One in many markets, unfortunately doesn't support modem-style communication.

If you're using a GSM phone, your best bet is probably to grab [Palm's Mobile Internet Kit](#), which

makes setup very easy, and includes email software and support for using wireless PQA applications. You can also find a good setup tutorial for GSM phones at users.zipworld.com/au/~rmills/IR2.htm. (The site will soon move to the MyWirelessPalm.com URL.)

If you're using a more common CDMA phone, you'll need a cable that connects the serial port of your Palm device, and you'll also need to set up your Network Prefs to dial either your ISP or the cell phone provider's data service. For cables, we've been using Motorola-compatible serial cables from www.cables4pdas.com (pictured) on our Visor Prism, and one from www.syncablesolutions.com for our Palm IIIc and Handera 330.

Both work very well with a Motorola Startac 7868 using Verizon as a provider. For other cell phones, check out www.markspace.com and www.thesupplynet.com, both of whom offer a variety of serial solutions for Palms and Visors.

The folks Cables4PDAs kindly offer a brief tutorial for setting up your Palm for use with CDMA phones on Sprint and Verizon on their site. You can find a more elaborate tutorial for Sprint setup at www.geocities.com/bobstro/sprint_pcs_qnc.htm. For Verizon, the company has a PDF setup guide at www.verizonwireless.com/images/mobile_office/getting_started/palm_userguide.pdf.

Of course, dedicated wireless solutions like OmniSky have advantages, not the least of which is an all-in-one package instead of a separate cable and phone. Still, if you already have the right phone, this is an inexpensive entry into the wireless handheld world.



Review Palm m505

\$449.95, Palm, www.palm.com

Let's clear one thing up from the start: viewing it outdoors. The m505, on the other hand, is perfectly readable in bright sunlight with no lighting at all. (See image.) We assume Palm kept the frontlight dim to save battery life. We do hope they'll make it adjustable in their future machines, though. Other than the color screen, the device is virtually identical to the mono m500. See *Handheld Computing* Weekly issues 76 and 80 for more info on the m500 series. -Denny Atkin



OmniSky

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News

Palm m700/m705 Rumored!

Palm has already admitted that it's working on a new wireless device, and it appears that images of a prototype have leaked. Thanks to Hal-J over at top-notch



rumor site PalmStation, we've secured these images of a prototype next-generation wireless Palm.

Of course, there's always a chance these images could be very, very clever fakes. But con-



sidering Palm registered the domain names palm700.com and palm705.com in late March. Palm m705 seems to indicate a color wireless devices, a thought that gets us very excited. Rumor has it that these devices will use the Spring CDMA network, although Cingular has been mentioned as well.

New Products

AddInfrared to Your Printer

The makers of PrintBoy Deluxe have introduced the InfraReady adapter, which plugs into your printer's parallel port and adds the capability to beam documents from your Palm device for printing. \$55.99.

www.bachmannsoftware.com